

Conservation & Environmental Education Opportunities

Sponsored by the Swain Soil and Water Conservation District

Available to the students of Swain County

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Education Coordinator for the Swain Soil and Water Conservation District. I am a recent graduate from W.C.U. where I received my B.S. degree in Environmental Science. I'm currently in the process of obtaining my Environmental Educators Certification through the NC Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources.

Over the past few months I've lead several educational activities for both the Swain Rec. Dept. Day Camp and Swain Middle School Summer Adventures. We covered a variety of topics pertaining to the natural world, its processes, and more importantly the students role within it.

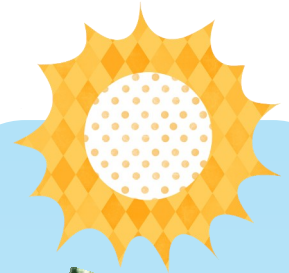
It would be my pleasure to continue to build on these topics and others by visiting classrooms and providing outdoor-based learning experiences. Please, consider the outreach services provided by the District so that together we may aid students in becoming active stewards of the environment!

The District offers unique learning tools that visually depict landscape scale impacts on natural resources, particularly water and soil.

Enviroscape: a tabletop demonstration of wetland and watershed function. Used in classrooms and at Conservation Field Day.

Stream-table: a model stream used to replicate transport and deposition of sediment plus other dynamics of a stream. Large visual tool used typically outdoors and at Conservation Field Day.

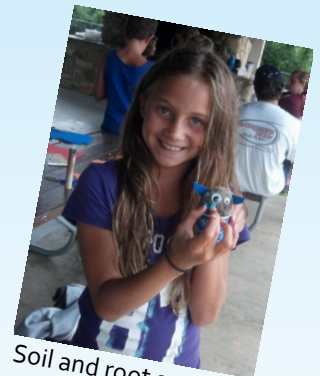
For all the teachers who have continually dedicated the extra time to include our contests and other outreach programs into their busy schedule....THANK YOU!



Fish Adaptations



Pollinators



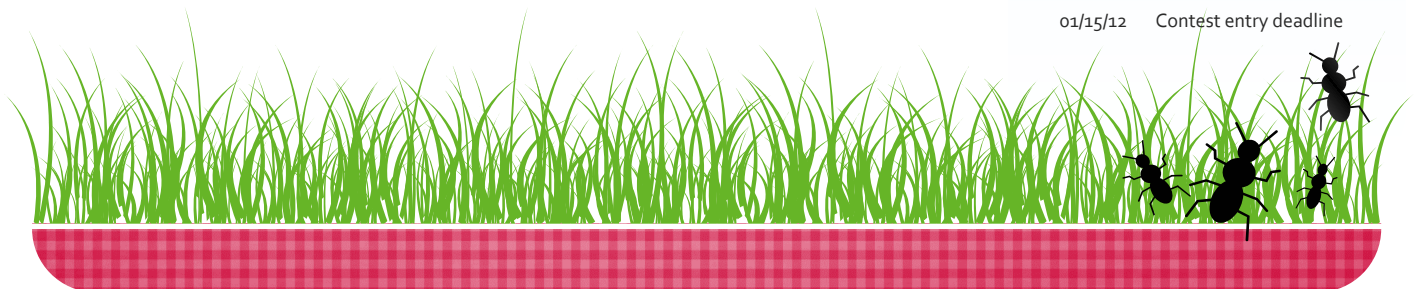
Soil and root systems

Inside this issue

Brief Intro.....	Page 1
Contests.....	Page 2
<i>"Water....The Cycle of Life"</i>	
Envirothon.....	Page 3
(Middle School & High School)	

Important Dates

10/06/12	Swain Big Sweep...Page 3
01/15/12	Contest entry deadline



2012-2013

DISTRICT CONTESTS

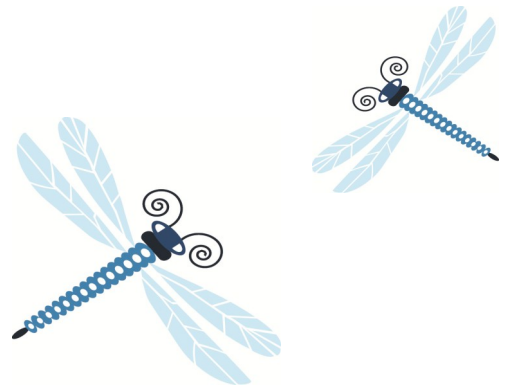
Annually, the District provides a series of contests designed to allow students to express their interest and knowledge of various environmental topics.

This year the theme is “Water...the Cycle of Life”

Our contests are designed to compliment subjects already being covered in the classroom. The themes are meant to be both relevant and convenient for teachers to include into their course agendas. These topics satisfy a variety of NC Essential Standards for K-12. Furthermore, we provide classroom and outdoor based activities to assist teachers with the material. Plus, we offer monetary incentives for the teachers of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. We strongly encourage participation from students within the non-public and home school systems!!!



Poster Contest: Third-Fifth
Essay Contest: Sixth Grade
Computer Slideshow: Sixth
Public Speaking: Seventh and Eighth
Computer Generated Poster: Ninth



2011-2012 Winners

Third Grade

1st Place: Dylan Woodard
2nd Place: Abbigail King
3rd Place: Hannah Epperson

Fifth Grade

1st Place: Kilyne Oocumma
2nd Place: Michelle Posey
3rd Place: Nathan Bird

We are looking forward to seeing how the students use the Arts to demonstrate their knowledge of the water cycle!

**** To enter, please contact our office for details!!*

Deadline for entry
JANUARY 15th



2012-2013

ENVIROTHON

This is an exciting competition for five member teams of middle school and high school students to engage in relevant and challenging topics concerning natural resources. As a team, students will be introduced to topics in **Aquatics**, **Soils**, **Forestry**, **Wildlife**, and **Current Environmental Issues**.

There are **cash prizes** and **scholarships** awarded to the highest scoring teams. For those who claim first place, Envirothon participants may continue on in state and national level competitions (sponsored by Canon).

Preparation and dedication are KEY! Training must begin early !!
Area level competition is scheduled for late March.

Swain has never had a middle school team compete it would be great if this year a teacher could make that happen!!

visit <http://ncenvirothon.org> for more information

2012

SWAIN NC BIG SWEEP

This year, your local Soil and Water District will sponsor the Swain County extension of the NC Big Sweep. During this event volunteers will visit various locations throughout the county to remove trash and other debris from roadways and waterways. This is an international effort to help keep our water clean and a great way to get involved!!



Swain Big Sweep: October 6th

If you are interested in volunteering for this one day event, please contact our office immediately to register

Visit <http://www.ncbigssweep.org>

There are other educational opportunities provided by the District. If you would like more information on those mentioned in this newsletter and others, please contact me at

828-488-8803 ext.3

or at zmillsaps@swaincountync.gov